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How to Use IPSW files

Nov 23, 2010 - 101 Comments



IPSW stands rather simply for iOS Software, and IPSW files are basically just individual firmware downloads for specific iOS devices. These files can be used to update iOS devices manually with the help of iTunes or Finder. If you've recently downloaded an iOS IPSW file, you might be curious how to use it to update your iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad. Using IPSW is often considered advanced but it's actually pretty easy, just follow along with these directions and you'll be along your way.

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Before using a firmware file to update, you will want to backup the iOS or iPadOS device to be safe.

How to Use IPSW Files to Update iOS or iPadOS

You can use IPSW files on Mac or Windows, both require iTunes or Finder on modern MacOS to work properly. To use the latest version of IPSW firmware files to update or restore an iOS or iPadOS device, you'll want to be sure you have the latest version of iTunes installed as well.

1. Connect your iPhone or iOS device to your computer
2. Select the device in iTunes or Finder
3. On a Mac, hold down the "Option" key and then click on "Update"
4. On a Windows PC, hold down "SHIFT" key and then click on "Update"
5. Select the IPSW file you downloaded and click "Choose"
6. Let the iOS device update as usual

Version

Update

Restore

A newer version of the iPhone software is available (version 4.2). To update your iPhone with the latest software, click Update.

If you are experiencing problems with your iPhone, you can restore its original settings by clicking Restore.

Going the IPSW route can take longer to update than using the newer OTA ([over the air](#)) method, the reason being that OTA uses smaller delta updates than the larger IPSW files, which are the full sized downloads and are often literally 10x the download size.

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- RC of iOS 16.4, iPadOS 16.4, MacOS Ventura 13.3, Available for Beta Testers

- Beta 4 of iOS 16.4, iPadOS 16.4, MacOS Ventura 13.3, Available for Testing

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- Beta 3 of iOS 16.4, iPadOS 16.4, MacOS Ventura 13.3, Available for Testing

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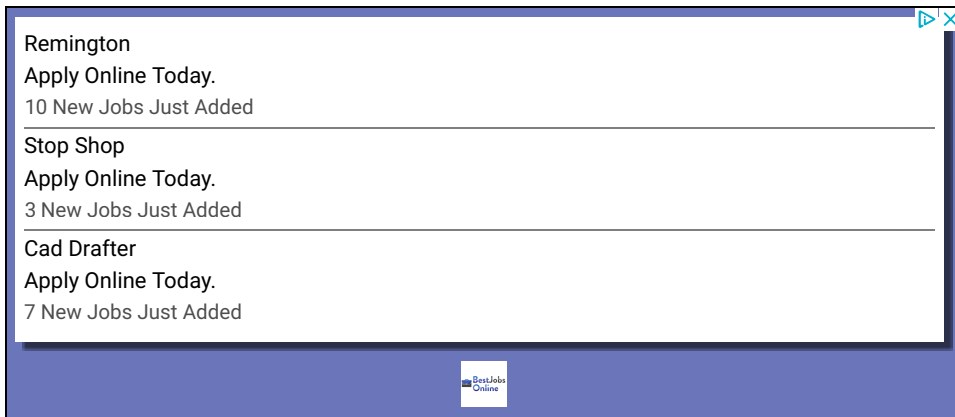
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iPhone / iPad

- How to Protect Private Photos with

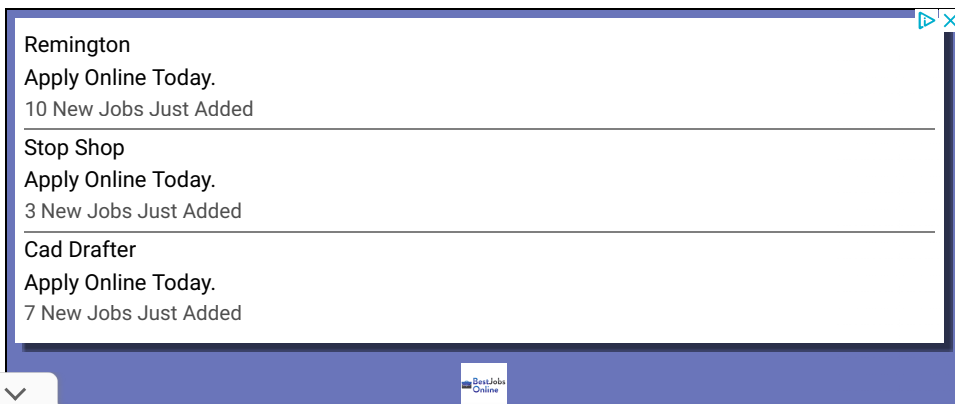


You can also click on “Restore” and select an IPSW instead but you will lose the existing files and settings on your iOS device. If you go that route, do not forget to backup beforehand.

Why use IPSW?

Though the average user is better off going the easy routes of updating iOS with iTunes, Finder, or OTA via the Settings app on their device, IPSW can have very practical uses as well. A significant advantage to using firmware files can be found for users with limited access to broadband internet, where downloading a software update on a remote faster connection makes more sense. Typically you would then copy that IPSW file to a USB key or DVD to bring it home to manually update a device. Also, for users with many of the same iOS devices, having a single IPSW downloads let's you conserve bandwidth by applying a single update to many devices.

Rarely, firmware files are required to restore a malfunctioning iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch that is basically bricked, but still functional. This is somewhat rare, but if an iOS update is interrupted it can happen, which usually requires a [device be placed into DFU mode](#) and restored manually with firmware. Typically a normal iTunes based restore is sufficient, which is why that is fairly rare.



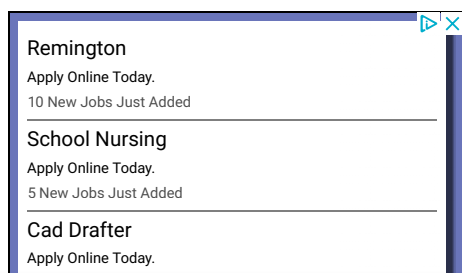
Passcode, Face ID, or Touch ID on iPhone & iPad

- How to Add Gmail Account to iPhone or iPad Mail
- How to Use Action Mode on iPhone Camera
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exclusively relevant to those who [jailbreak](#) and [unlock](#) their hardware though, and for the

average user the standard IPSW files available from Apple work just fine.

Where do you get IPSW files?

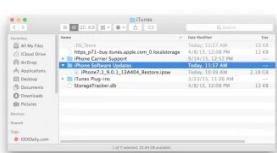
We have comprehensive lists of iOS IPSW files hosted from Apple's servers, you can see them all and access the downloads from the following places:

- [Browse IPSW files for all iOS and iPadOS Versions here](#) – we regularly gather direct links to IPSW files for system software as they are released
- [Where IPSW files are located on MacOS and Windows](#) – if you downloaded an iOS or iPadOS update, the IPSW file may already be on your computer

Note that each list includes all iOS versions after 3.0, and iPadOS after 13.0. Not all versions of iPadOS and iOS IPSW will work on all devices, so be sure to select the proper version for your hardware, and to use the latest which is supported. Finally, it's important to remember that IPSW files must be signed by Apple to be usable to restore onto a device, you can [learn about checking IPSW signing status here](#) if interested.



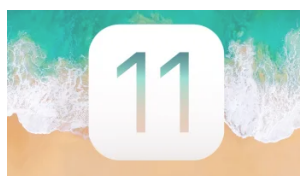
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IPSW File Location for Mac and Windows



How to Install iOS 11 Manually with IPSW Firmware and iTunes



iOS 11 Update Available to Download Now [IPSW Links]

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Posted by: Manish Patel in [iPad](#), [iPhone](#), [Tips & Tricks](#)

101 Comments

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James Scott says:
August 30, 2021 at 5:42 am

Ok

[Reply](#)

Pax says:

December 10, 2020 at 2:02 am

Hi, got an iphone 7 with a bad signal issue or does not have signal. I am using is an tablet without signal. And is stuck at OS9, gets error with updating. Techs say there is a problem with the airband. Do not wish to have it repaired. Is it possible to bypass this error, with IPSW direct update?

[Reply](#)

KHAN says:

February 15, 2019 at 11:06 am

my iphone 7 plus got stuck on boot loop and can not install flash from computer and showing error plz tell me what to do...

[Reply](#)

William says:

March 7, 2018 at 2:23 pm

Thanx for the update

[Reply](#)

Tennison says:

November 23, 2017 at 9:05 pm

Thanks you saved me! An iPad 2 running ios8 isnt a good idea... just for the heck of it and to take a walk down memory lane I'm gonna IPSW my iPad 2 down to ios 5! Very exited.

[Reply](#)

Pete says:

November 1, 2017 at 4:09 am

Thanks for the tip, update went well!

[Reply](#)

sabrina says:

July 4, 2017 at 7:23 am

the software update on my phone says 10.3.2 but i dont want it couz its too big now how can download ios 10.3.1 if it is not displayed anymore

[Reply](#)

LOB zirdo says:

May 17, 2017 at 11:52 pm

how to restore i phone 6s

[Reply](#)

dina says:

March 18, 2017 at 10:10 am

hello there i have a disabled iphone 5s how to i restore and use that phone please help mee

[Reply](#)

kush says:
November 2, 2016 at 11:23 am

THANKYOU VERY VERY MUCH !!

[Reply](#)

sanjiv bhatia says:
July 25, 2016 at 9:43 pm

i have a japan iphone 6. Can i install iOS 9.3.3 using ipsw file downloaded from any website or is it country specific?

Will I get regular updates after installing iOS usinf ipsw file?

please reply.

[Reply](#)

Paul says:
July 26, 2016 at 9:12 am

You should only download and use IPSW from Apple. If the links to the IPSW files do not point to Apple servers (typically appldnld.apple.com), you should not download them. We link to IPSW which are hosted at Apple servers for each iOS version, including iOS 9.3.3, here:

<https://osxdaily.com/tag/ipsw/>

[Reply](#)

jobelle zuniega says:
June 28, 2016 at 1:49 am

can i install firmware for ipa on a ipad mini? is that posiible? need answer pls..
thanks..

[Reply](#)

V says:
April 17, 2016 at 7:40 pm

THIS worked for me after hours of trying other things. THANKS!

[Reply](#)

Robert says:
March 31, 2016 at 7:06 am

i am currentley on ios 9.3 public beta (iphine 6). If i update using an IPSW with Itunes, can I then still use the over the air updates in the future on my iphone or do i have to

keep installing the IPSW's.

[Reply](#)

Andy wright says:

March 1, 2016 at 11:59 am

I need help what app store

[Reply](#)

Bestawi says:

January 1, 2016 at 3:50 pm

Hello guys,

I'm still new when it comes to Iphone solutions and my GF Iphone stopped working all of a sudden and showing a white page with a black apple in the middle all of the time, what should I do ?

is it a software or hardware issue ?

please help

[Reply](#)

GI says:

January 1, 2016 at 4:03 pm

You probably need to restore the iPhone from a backup:

<https://osxdaily.com/2010/10/21/restore-iphone-from-backup/>

Use iTunes and an USB cable for the fastest solution.

[Reply](#)

Anders Eklov says:

September 10, 2015 at 3:17 pm

Thanks! This was a last resort for me cause I have an iPad that would not update/restore because of a network issue at apple. So i just downloaded the latest 8.4.1 ipsw file and option-clicked on the "restore" button, and it worked! Nothing with apple is ever this fast (NOT counting the "Apple normal OTA" way I tried for 2 f****ng days before...)

Apple should spend more time using this stuff, instead of just selling it.

/A

[Reply](#)

deram26 says:

August 29, 2015 at 9:26 am

Sir, I am trying to factory reset my iPad2 but iTunes got frozen after the SW

reinstallation. As soon as the firmware starts to install it looks that there is no progress anymore on the apple progress bar on the iPad. After one hour I receive a message "could not reset your iPad for an unknown reason". What I am doing wrong?
It is an iPad2, model A1396, Wi-Fi + 3G (GSM)

How can I choose the right ipws file for my iPad?
Why iTunes does not install automatically the firmware?
All information is welcome. Thanks.

[Reply](#)

shubham says:
July 14, 2015 at 8:01 pm

sir,i am jailbrak my ipad successfullly after some time. i am erase all data and reset my ipad. now its stop on apple logo and after battery is low and i connect to charger is not work.please give solution

[Reply](#)

Ashu qadri says:
June 6, 2015 at 1:27 pm

I tried on many websites for the correct method of restoring my iphone by .ipsw file...
Awesome answer Nicely worked... Thank you

[Reply](#)

Antor Ferdous says:
January 23, 2015 at 2:06 am

I have an iPod 4g with iOS 5.0.1 currently running in it? can i use IPSW file to degrade it back to 4.3.3(the version it was preinstalled with)?

[Reply](#)

David says:
June 12, 2014 at 8:17 am

i have an ipod 2nd generation can i install the ipod 4th generation IPSW files on it?

[Reply](#)

rly says:
June 12, 2014 at 9:44 am

No, you can install iPod 2nd gen IPSW onto your iPod 2nd gen.

[Reply](#)

anhai says:
February 16, 2014 at 4:35 pm

My Iphone 4 is running with OS version 6.0. My question is,
Do I need install IPSW files for iOS 6 ?

[Reply](#)

[Watch ESPN, HBO GO, Sky News on Apple TV with the 5.3 Update](#) says:

June 19, 2013 at 9:14 am

[...] Those who prefer to update manually can use IPSW from the direct download links below that are hosted on Apple's servers. Using IPSW with an Apple TV requires a USB cable and iTunes, and is the same process as with other iOS devices. [...]

[Reply](#)

[iOS 6.1.4 Released for iPhone 5 \[IPSW Download Links\]](#) says:

May 2, 2013 at 10:36 am

[...] those who prefer to use firmware files for manually updating iOS with iTunes, these are direct links to IPSW from Apple's [...]

[Reply](#)

[iOS 6.1.3 Released with Minor Fixes & Improvements \[Download Links\]](#) says:

March 19, 2013 at 12:54 pm

[...] users can use IPSW files and manually update the iOS firmware with [...]

[Reply](#)

Jed says:

March 14, 2013 at 1:34 pm

How can I tell what is the right ipsw file to update my iPad2, iTunes indicates that (Version 6.1.2) but not sure how to relate that info to the ipsw file they're labelled differently

[Reply](#)

Ajay Jotwani says:

February 22, 2013 at 4:28 pm

hey guys need some real help..

My phone is jailbroken and I am having with me a ios 6.1 ipsw file for iphone 4 and i want to restore it from that only but itunes is showing an error 3194..

As i have some broadband issues so wont be able to direct restore from itunes so can anyone help me plz ?

[Reply](#)

[iOS 6.1.2 Released with Fix for Battery Life Bug \[IPSW Direct Download Links\]](#) says:

February 22, 2013 at 2:14 pm

[...] As", ensuring the file extension is .ipsw in order for it to work properly. Though updating with IPSW isn't too complicated, it is not considered a necessary procedure to know how to do, and most users should stick with the [...]

[Reply](#)

Karlyly says:

February 19, 2013 at 11:46 pm

Everytime i do ipsw update with my itunes i get a 3194 error code. what does this mean and how do i fix this. usually i would to download another file sometimes over 1 gig file. please someone clarify me

[Reply](#)

[iOS 6.1 Update Released \[Direct Download Links\]](#) says:

January 28, 2013 at 12:13 pm

[...] and not necessary for most users, though it's not particularly complicated and you can learn how to use them here. Right-click a link below and choose 'Save As' for best [...]

[Reply](#)

crueldude says:

November 27, 2012 at 2:20 pm

Hi downloaded ipsw file with explorer got many files in folder. Restore file big file smaller files. Wich one to change. Plsto. Ipsw.try to make costum ipsw with redsnow.say it does not apear to be a ipsw file can not parce file.after i ziped files as one and put. Ipsw iafter it heeeeeeeelp

[Reply](#)

Peter Schumacher says:

November 26, 2012 at 8:37 am

As I discovered the hard way, in order to upgrade your iPhone OS using an .ipsw file with iTunes, your PC must have an active internet connection, surprisingly. And it does not suffice to just tether off your iPhone for this. In my case, near the end of the installation procedure, after the old OS had been wiped, iTunes gave an error saying it couldn't connect to the Apple server. Well, duh! So now my iPhone was stuffed. Unbootable. I had to take it to an Apple Store to get the OS installed.

[Reply](#)

kel says:

November 22, 2012 at 2:24 am

i downloaded iPhone3,1_6.0_10A403_Restore ipsw for iphone 4 gsm after checking that my iphone 4 is gsm, but when i use it to restore my iphone its showing firmware not compatible. :(

[Reply](#)

JD says:

November 17, 2012 at 6:11 pm

I keep getting 3194 error. I have tried all the different versions. It is named IPSW. I have no idea what is the problem.

[Reply](#)

[How to Determine if iPhone is GSM or CDMA](#) says:

November 15, 2012 at 11:37 am

[...] to know or care about their device being GSM or CDMA. This is really mostly helpful to those who use IPSW (IPSW is iOS firmware, basically the iPhone system software) to either update a device manually, [...]

[Reply](#)

Dhanashree says:

November 10, 2012 at 6:35 am

if i choose 6.0.1 file...it says not compatible file...

help !!!

[Reply](#)

Dhanashree says:

November 10, 2012 at 6:33 am

i hv upgraded to ios 6.0.1 and i hav ipsw file for ios 6.0.1 and 6.0
but wen i try to jailbreak if i choose 6.0 file it says " error choose a523" which is ios
6.0.1 ipsw file
if i choose 6.0 ipsw file it says "file not compatible wid this redsn0w"
sum1 plz help me....its lyk night mare if i cnnt jailbreak dis ios 6.0.1
sum1 plz specify what to do ???

[Reply](#)

[iOS 6.0.1 Direct Download Links](#) says:

November 1, 2012 at 11:21 am

[...] the automatic update procedure. Nonetheless, some advanced users prefer upgrading directly by using IPSW firmware files, and those downloads can be found [...]

[Reply](#)

sunny leone says:

October 16, 2012 at 5:46 am

after installing ios 5.1.1 and updating it to my iphone an unknown error(3194) is
occurring.....pleaz cn some1 help me??????

[Reply](#)

robin says:

October 3, 2012 at 9:53 pm

it worked for me ,thanx man!!

[Reply](#)

Frank says:

October 3, 2012 at 10:07 am

After I have installed IOS6 my contact are no longer visible on my iPhone 3GS. In iCloud they are still there, but synchronizing with iTunes doesn't bring a solution. Want to downgrade to IOS 5.1.1 and downloaded iPhone1,2_4.2.1_8C148_Restore.ipsw for 3GS version 4.2.1. Trying to restore results in message that the firmware is not compatible? Can anybody explain me what I'm doing wrong? Please help!

[Reply](#)

BirchNorris says:

October 1, 2012 at 1:07 am

So can i have the iPhone 4s iOS 6 software running on an iPhone 4?

[Reply](#)

[iPhone 3GS & IOS6 | Techie Bin](#) says:

September 30, 2012 at 10:26 pm

[...] the IPSW file after 6 hours....I was able to install the update using the tip in this link..which basically asked me to press my "SHIFT" key when I hit update button in itunes [...]

[Reply](#)

Nilesh says:

September 29, 2012 at 6:55 pm

i have upgraded my iphone 4 to version 6. i want to downgrade it to version 5. pl help.

[Reply](#)

Katrina Chua says:

September 24, 2012 at 9:34 pm

hi! i've been trying to update my iPad 2 WiFi 5.0.1 to 5.1.1 using this. but after extracting software, an unknown error (3194) occurs. what do i do? thank you!

[Reply](#)

[Apple TV 5.1 Update Released](#) says:

September 24, 2012 at 11:21 am

[...] users are better off downloading the update through Apple TV itself, but using iOS firmware files is the same on Apple TV as it is for other iOS devices and requires a USB connection. [...]

[Reply](#)

vener says:

September 23, 2012 at 6:49 pm

i have an iphone 2g, it is already jailbroken. is it ok to upgrade the software of this iphone from 3.1.2 to 3.1.3? can i might encounter any problems after upgrading?

pleas im here inmanila philippines...e help me...

[Reply](#)

hassan says:

September 10, 2012 at 8:13 am

hey guyz im havin a problem.....plzz help,, wen its extractin i get thiz alert its som sot of an error

[Reply](#)

Guam says:

August 27, 2012 at 7:31 am

I am trying to replace an iPod Mini 2Gen 4GB microdrive with a 32GB Compact Flash. I found out I need to copy the "iPod Control Files" to my new flash drive. I am assuming that is the ipsw file.

My Compact Flash drive is formatted as one partition FAT32.

Do I need to just copy the ipsw file to the partition and then install the CF drive into the ipod or do I have to do something special like format it into two partitions?

Can someone please let me know how to get the new CF drive working in my iPod Mini?

I tried connecting the old microdrive to the computer but my CF reader just gives me an error when I try to connect it to my computer so I cannot just copy the microdrive contents to the CF drive.

Thank you for your help.

[Reply](#)

Muky says:

August 26, 2012 at 1:40 pm

Thanks guys. You just save me \$\$\$\$\$\$! God bless you.

[Reply](#)

amaan says:

June 11, 2012 at 10:18 pm

my ipod 4gen caanot be updated. an unkwn error occurs saying that could not connect to itunes update server. Help please ;)

[Reply](#)

Me says:

May 15, 2012 at 6:35 pm

Am i able to port the iPhone 4S software to my ipod touch (4th gen)?

[Reply](#)

tf says:

May 16, 2012 at 8:08 am

no

[Reply](#)

iOS 5.1.1 Released [Direct Download Links] says:

May 11, 2012 at 1:07 pm

[...] and "Save As" for best results. The file extension should be .ipsw and nothing else, using IPSW files is easy but for most users it's recommended to download through iTunes or the iOS [...]

[Reply](#)

Jes says:

April 1, 2012 at 4:04 am

I have an iPhone 4 running on iOS 4.0.2. Apparently, I've lost my passcode. I need to reset/restore the phone to factory defaults.

Downloaded iOS 4.0.2 IPSW file and tried to restore using the file but I kept getting a 3194 error. I also downloaded IPSW file for the latest firmware version (iOS 5.1). The first time I tried restoring using this it took more than 7hrs before I decided to kill the task via task manager.

Now, I'm getting the same 3194 error while using the new iOS 5.1 file.

Please, help! It's been a week and I'm desperate.

Thanks in advance :)

[Reply](#)

amaurya says:

March 14, 2012 at 2:37 am

i have tried it for my iphone 4s i have downloaded a IPSW version 5.0.1 but not worked for me

[Reply](#)

iOS 5.1 Released [Direct Download Links] says:

March 7, 2012 at 1:30 pm

[...] you don't know how to use IPSW files, you should just update with iTunes or on the device itself using over-the-air downloads. [...]

[Reply](#)

Dev says:

January 30, 2012 at 6:51 am

I have an iphone 4S i tried to reboot it two days back and while doing so it got stuck

on the boot logo and it is still not moving any further. I tried to google it, and all i could do was 'restore'. I tried to download the iOS 5.0.1 version from itunes, and it takes forever. I'm now downloading it from the link above. What do i do after renaming to ipsw file? What do i do to get it on my iphone?

Thanks much.

[Reply](#)

[Install iOS 5 on iPhone 3G & 2G or iPod Touch 1G/2G with Whited00r 5](#) says:
January 19, 2012 at 12:06 am

[...] If the trade offs are worth it to you, installing Whited00r is very easy for anyone familiar with using IPSW [...]

[Reply](#)

Janet says:
November 29, 2011 at 3:10 pm

Hi i dont quite understand how to do this

i have iphone 4, its not jail broken i updated to ios5 today – BIG MISTAKE!

i have one back up from july in itunes would that back up to the previous ios4 version i had back then????

Janet

[Reply](#)

Zidor Norcilien says:
November 18, 2011 at 3:38 am

Zaid, I did the same for my 4g and it woked out!

try to get a wifi coverage with the at&t simcard inserted then follow the prompt to activate your phone using your wifi connection. If you have an at&t sim card it should work just fine after the activation.

but if you have another sim card it doesn't matter whether You had unlocked before the update, you'll have to unlock it again!

[Reply](#)

Zaid says:
November 13, 2011 at 3:14 am

Hi,

i updated my iPhone 3GS to iOS5.0.1

now its asking me to activate, and is not recognising the sim... it shows searching network and after a long time it shows no network.

how to get it working

[Reply](#)

[iOS 5.0.1 Released \[Download Links\]](#) says:

November 10, 2011 at 11:26 am

[...] you'd rather download and install the firmware yourself and you know how to use IPSW files, use the links [...]

[Reply](#)

[ios升级时提示“（设备无资格建立）could not be updated”错误的解决办法 | .i.分享](#)

says:

November 3, 2011 at 7:40 pm

[...] 关于IPSW固件区别很大，特比是GSM和CDMA的差异很大，在美国，这是最容易判断的基础上手机提供商AT&T是GSM，Verizon是CDMA。如果你不知道做什么用的IPSW文件的，你可以阅读我们的怎么识别他们。 [...]

[Reply](#)

pritch says:

October 29, 2011 at 1:59 am

i dwnloaded 4.2 then i updated my osit showed an error and nw my iphone is in recovery mode.....wht shud i do...

[Reply](#)

adriana says:

October 28, 2011 at 4:16 pm

I have a Windows PC. I pushed down the 'SHIFT' key but nothing happens...

[Reply](#)

adriana says:

October 28, 2011 at 4:20 pm

Nevermind!!

[Reply](#)

ruby says:

October 14, 2011 at 3:00 am

hi there i have a question to address..

rite now i am using ipod touch gen4 with ios 4.3.3

recently i have downloaded the newest ios5.ipsw

i have installed cydia and installous on my ipod

how can i update my ios4.3.3 into ios5 and how to jailbreak it then ?

tyvm for the asnwer

[Reply](#)

Thomas says:

August 21, 2012 at 6:48 am

What to do: restore iPod to most recent backup,
use ipsw to update to software 5.1.1,
use redsn0w to jailbreak TETHERED,
then follow this guide:

Go to cydia and let it install – once done go back into cydia and download rocky
raccoon 5.1.1 untether

Hope this helped!

[Reply](#)

Jon says:

October 13, 2011 at 10:17 am

Thank you so much! this helped me solve my very problem. You are like an angel sent
from God.

[Reply](#)

kader says:

September 1, 2011 at 9:53 pm

hi guys...

my Ipad touch is locked! i typed wrong key for three time and it is now Disabled. If i
want to restore this device via downloaded IPSW what should i do ?

i mean i have downloaded this from your direct link and renamed it successfully. now
what to do ? whats the next step ? when i connect my device to itunes it directly
connects to the internet.

What if i want to restore my Locked device with this downloaded file ?

thanks

kader

[Reply](#)

Connor says:

August 30, 2011 at 5:30 pm

Thank you man, you saved my day, this may seem a long while when it was posted
but THANK YOU! <3

[Reply](#)

kevin says:

July 29, 2011 at 5:47 am

is it only for iPad2 which is on 4.3.2?

mine is on 4.3.1 right now.

not able to use this for 4.3.1? i have tried it with this file

but it has come 3194? error.

thanks.

[Reply](#)

HarshSac says:

October 29, 2011 at 4:57 am

Go to google and type "iPhone error 3194" this may fix your problem

[Reply](#)

[iOS 4.3.5 Released with Security Fixes – Direct Download Links](#) says:

July 25, 2011 at 10:47 am

[...] can read about using IPSW files if you are confused, but most users will be best served by updating through [...]

[Reply](#)

[Download and install iOS 4.3.4 for iPhone 4, 3GS, iPad 2, 1, And Pod touch |](#)

[TechFlipper](#) says:

July 16, 2011 at 3:35 am

[...] (Mac OS X) and click on the restore button within iTunes. You can read more about using IPSW files here if you are not sure. Tags: download 4.3.4 for ipod 2, download and install 4.3.4, download iOS [...]

[Reply](#)

jezz says:

June 26, 2011 at 2:23 am

to rename zip file go into control panel click on folder options click on view tab on top then unselect hide extensions for known file types click apply then ok then change zip by right clicking then rename change zip to ipsw

[Reply](#)

Mark says:

August 15, 2012 at 4:51 am

thank you soo much! you just made my day!

[Reply](#)

Jack says:

September 30, 2012 at 8:58 pm

u champion this is what i needed to know!!

[Reply](#)

Jack says:

July 4, 2016 at 8:16 pm

Thank you so much I've been trying for so long thanks so much again.

[Reply](#)

nik says:

May 28, 2011 at 11:30 am

So if I have a jailbroken/unlocked iphone, do I 'update' or 'restore' using ;an ipsw file?
thanks.

[Reply](#)

preetham says:

April 17, 2012 at 10:47 am

did it work dude

[Reply](#)

Yousuf says:

May 23, 2011 at 12:04 am

i download the ipsw file and it come in zip file i tried to rename it to ext. of ipsw but
doesn't work ?

any idea

thanks

[Reply](#)

mike says:

May 25, 2011 at 12:27 pm

im having the same proplem. its driving me mad.

[Reply](#)

Joseph says:

September 10, 2011 at 9:32 am

It is probably doing so because you are using internet explorer. Try
downloading it in another browser such as Chrome, Firefox, or Safari

[Reply](#)

Linda says:

May 7, 2011 at 7:16 pm

Yes, you have great tips here that many hackers just fail to explain.

Thanks so much!

[Reply](#)

Enrique says:

April 20, 2011 at 10:21 pm

Does the phone have to be in DFU mode or whatever?

[Reply](#)

Colin Kaduya says:

April 23, 2015 at 2:27 am

YES

[Reply](#)

tico says:

April 15, 2011 at 2:22 am

thank you for this nice tip. :)

[Reply](#)

[iOS 4.3.2 Download is Available Now](#) says:

April 14, 2011 at 10:25 am

[...] users should update their iOS hardware through iTunes for ease of use, but you can learn how to use IPSW files if this interests [...]

[Reply](#)

JJM says:

March 27, 2011 at 7:29 am

I'm new to this, but have successfully downgraded from 4.3 to 4.1 (my shsh blobs had been saved. My question though is this: Is there a difference between custom .ipsw files and restore.ipsw files. I've been reading different sites and those two terms are used a lot.

[Reply](#)

Norman Thompson says:

March 10, 2011 at 5:35 pm

Thanks for writing this. I searched the entire internet, and a lot of folks did not explain this as simple as you did. Thanks. One other point to note is that Apple sends the files as zip files and you have to rename them .ipsw

[Reply](#)

Maria says:

March 18, 2011 at 5:46 pm

Norman,

Thank you so much for noting that you have to rename file as an .ipsw I have been trying all day to restore to an older version and the firmware I download doesn't show up. I will give that a try

[Reply](#)

[Download iPhone Firmware / IPSW Files](#) says:

December 14, 2010 at 6:30 pm

[...] can find out how to use IPSW files if you are [...]

[Reply](#)

Bogaart says:

March 25, 2011 at 3:04 pm

Thanks, Norman for the hint about renaming the zip file. I was totally confused up to that point.

[Reply](#)

ddavid says:

December 4, 2010 at 7:31 pm

Perhaps next time you could insert, “how to backup a original ispw file” on a brand new ipod Touch 4Gen. It would be nice to backup the original file rather than Downloading some other file which may or may not be compatible. That question brought me here in my search, but it was not discussed.

Thank You.

[Reply](#)

[Bill Eccles](#) says:

November 23, 2010 at 5:23 am

It's worth noting that if you have multiple iOS devices to update, downloading all of the updates via the direct links and placing the resulting ipsw files into “~/Library/iTunes/(iPad/iPod/iPhone) Updates” will let you update the devices much faster as iTunes won't download more than one update at a time.

[Reply](#)

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